

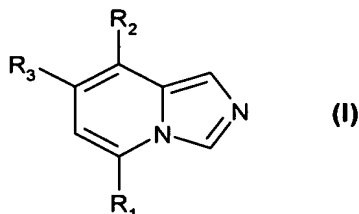
### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 21 (cancel)

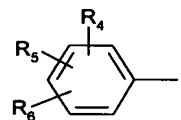
Claim 22 (new): A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or an aryl radical of the formula

in which



R<sub>4</sub> is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; or

R<sub>4</sub> is optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or trifluoromethyl provided that both R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are not hydrogen;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring provided that R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> combined are alkylene which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered ring provided that R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted amino, alkoxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfonyl or carbamoyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring; or

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> combined are alkylene which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

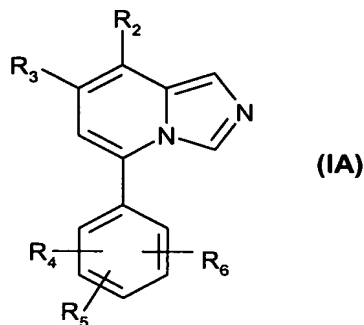
Claim 23 (new): A compound according to claim 22, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is heterocyclyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen;

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 24 (new): A compound according to claim 22 of the formula (IA)



wherein

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring; or

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> combined are alkylene which taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered ring;

R<sub>4</sub> is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; or

R<sub>4</sub> is optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or trifluoromethyl provided that both R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are not hydrogen;

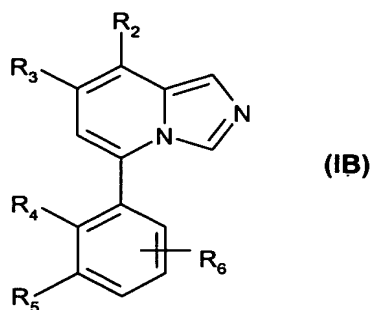
R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring provided that R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted amino, alkoxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfonyl or carbamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 25 (new): A compound according to claim 24 of the formula (IB)



wherein

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are, independently, hydrogen, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- to 6-membered ring;

$R_4$  is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; or

$R_4$  is hydroxy, halogen or trifluoromethyl provided that both  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are not hydrogen;

$R_5$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

$R_4$  and  $R_5$  combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring;

$R_6$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted amino, alkoxy, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfonyl or carbamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 26 (new): A compound according to claim 25, wherein

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 27 (new): A compound according to claim 25, wherein

$R_4$  is monocyclic aryl or heteroaryl;

$R_5$  is hydrogen;

$R_6$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 28 (new): A compound according to claim 25, wherein

$R_4$  and  $R_5$  combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic 5- or 6-membered ring;

$R_6$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 29 (new): A compound according to claim 22 which is selected from:

5-Naphthalen-1-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine;

5-Biphenyl-4-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine;

5-Biphenyl-2-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine;

5-Benzofuran-3-yl-imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine; and

4-Imidazo[1,5-a]pyridin-5-yl-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridine-1-carboxylic acid benzyl ester;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 30 (new): A method for the inhibition of aldosterone synthase activity in mammals which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22.

Claim 31 (new): A method for the prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with aldosterone synthase activity in mammals which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22.

Claim 32 (new): A method according to claim 31, which method comprises administering said compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of anti-obesity agent, anti-hypertensive agent, inotropic agent or hypolipidemic agent.

Claim 33 (new): A method for the prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with aldosterone synthase activity in mammals which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 25.

Claim 34 (new): A method for the treatment of hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, renal failure, in particular, chronic renal failure, restenosis, atherosclerosis, syndrome X, obesity, nephropathy, post-myocardial infarction, coronary heart diseases, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis and remodeling following hypertension and endothelial dysfunction,, which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22.

Claim 35 (new): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Claim 36 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 35 for the treatment of hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary heart diseases, post myocardial infarction, restenosis, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis, and remodeling following hypertension, endothelial dysfunction, renal failure, nephropathy, syndrome X and obesity.

Claim 37 (new): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 22 in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of anti-obesity agent, anti-hypertensive agent, inotropic agent or hypolipidemic agent.

Claim 38 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 37 for the treatment of hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary heart diseases, post myocardial infarction, restenosis, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis, and remodeling following hypertension, endothelial dysfunction, renal failure, nephropathy, syndrome X and obesity.

Claim 39 (new): A combination, comprising a compound of claim 22 and another therapeutic agent selected from an anti-obesity agent, anti-hypertensive agent, inotropic agent or hypolipidemic agent.